



Idaho FFA Association

January Issue

**Learning to Do *Doing to Learn *Earning to Live *Living to Serve*

Upcoming Events

Feb 15: FFA Scholarship Applications due

Feb 17: Cinarussa FFA Day on the Hill

Feb 21-28: National FFA Week

March 1: State FFA Officer apps due

March 1: Proficiency Award Apps due

March 1: Entertainment Apps due for SLC

March 17: BYU-Idaho Ag Rendezvous

April 1-3: Idaho FFA State Leadership Conference

****Be sure to check the website for all of the applications and their deadlines for State Convention.****

President's Report



Hello Idaho FFA Members! Wow, I can't even believe how amazingly busy the last couple weeks have been. Mid-Winter Planning took place in Boise the second week of January. All

six of the state officers and eight district FFA presidents were in attendance. The state officers spent the first two days touring area businesses and learning about Idaho agriculture. The next two days were spent with the district presidents planning the

2004 Idaho FFA State Leadership Conference. I must say that this group of district presidents is the best as they worked very effectively and efficiently at getting our tasks done!

The following week I had the great pleasure of attending the PTE Foundation Legislative Luncheon 2004. The luncheon was attended by legislators and the state officers of all of the PTE student organizations in Idaho including FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, DECA, HOSA, Skills USA, and VICA. About 100 plus Legislatures were in attendance along with Governor

Kemphorne and many business leaders. I would like to say we are very lucky to have the political leadership we do in our great state because I know they keep our interests at heart when appropriating funding of the state budget.

I got just a couple days of rest before heading back to Boise for the ALD (Advanced Leadership Development) Conference. The three amazing trainers from National FFA were Robyn, Renee, and Wes. They were three highly energetic people who took great interest in keeping the 101 Idaho FFA Members in attendance excited and interested about learning leadership techniques to take back home to their chapters! I want to tell you that our FFA members here in Idaho are the most fun to be around! We truly have the best members right here in Idaho!

I can't wait to see everybody again at Legislative Day on the Hill in February! Also it's time for all of those district competitions so good luck to everyone! Until next time keep shoveling that beautiful snow!

-John Meyers, State President

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A Half-Minute with Trent Van Leuven

- Hometown Chapter: Rigby
- Birthday: August 21, 1984—19 years old
- Favorite Television Show: M*A*S*H
- SAE Project: Beef Entrepreneur (boy they were ugly cows!) and Agricultural Sales.
- Favorite Dinner: Prime Rib
- Favorite Animal: The Holstein cow, of course.
- What's the highlight for your year as State Reporter? Meeting FFA members and seeing the great things they do for their communities.
- Where are you going to school? The University of Idaho, majoring in AgEconomics.

FFA Achievements

- Freshman:
 - Joined FFA
 - Appointed Freshman Rep
 - Went to State Creed
- Sophomore:
 - Served as NomCom Chairman
- Junior:
 - Served as Chapter Sentinel
 - Served as District Treasurer
 - Received State Degree
- Senior:
 - Served as Chapter President
 - Served as District President
 - 2nd place in Extemp
 - Elected State Reporter
 - Attended the National Convention for the first time and loved every bit of it.

Quote of the Month

"Traditionally, most of Australia's imports come from overseas."

***-Former Australian cabinet minister
Keppel Enderbery***

Advanced Leadership Development

ALD was held January 23rd and 24th at the Holiday Inn at Boise. Chapters from all around the state—including, but not limited to Bonners Ferry, Buhl, Cambridge, Council, Declo, filer, Firth, Fruitland, Genesee, Grace, Gooding, Highland, Idaho City, Madison, Notus, Parma, Raft River, Snake river, Skyview, and Troy.



ALD is one of several leadership development seminars put on by trainers from the National FFA Organization. This year's trainers were Robyn from Oklahoma, Renee from Arkansas, and Wes from Oregon. They were pumped full of excitement, prepared, and geared up to give the Idaho FFA Association a first class round of workshops. In addition to some great moments to work on chapter goals, there were abundant opportunities to meet with others from around the state—including the dance that night.



"The first day was so much fun, especially the ALD dance that was held Friday night. We had not only lots of dancing, but we also had some great dance competitions like swing dancing and the boys and girls dance-off. The night was full of laughter when students fully participated in many games including the chubby bunny game, saltines and whistling competition, and a jelly belly pie eating contest. It was truly a night full of fun and excitement."

-From Katie's July 25th Journal Entry

Members were first introduced to the definition of "Leadership is Influence". The workshop continued to cover leadership from one's self, teamwork, and through the act of service. Through this all, the members were separated into small groups that worked on drafting up solutions for areas that their chapters could improve on.



So from working on activities, exploring new ideas, or even participating in the team challenges; participating chapters saw their members grow and a whole new world of ideas opening up to them. MFE and ALD is always a great event and we look forward to it each year.

Ozymandias

*I met a traveler from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read,
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed,
And on the pedestal these words appear:*

**"My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings:
Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"**

*Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.*

-Percy Bysshe Shelley
1792-1822



A Day of Business and Industry Tours

Thursday January 8th 2004 was another busy day for the state officer team. The day began with a breakfast with Ty Iverson of Association Management Group (AMG). We then went with Mr. Iverson to meet with Roger Batt, Executive Director of the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign. We had the opportunity to learn about the noxious weed problem in Idaho and what FFA members can do to help control the spread of these weeds.

The next stop was an exciting one where we met with from the United Dairymen of Idaho (UDI). We sat with Ms. Sessions and discussed the current status of our dairy industry and also had a chance to drink a little milk. Following our visit to the UDI, we went to Wells Fargo, who has sponsored the watches for our star winners at State Leadership Convention for many years. Our next stop was to the State Division of Professional-Technical Education, home of the Idaho FFA Association state office. We visited with Dr. Mike Rush about education system as a whole, and the future of Professional Technical Education.

The next stops were to the Idaho Water Users and the Idaho Rural Partnership. We learned about many of the aspects of the



agriculture industry that are not always front-page news, but that affect our industry nonetheless. The final two visits of the day were to two of Idaho's Congressman's offices. The first was to Congressman Butch Otter's office, where we visited with past State President, Josh Tewalt. The next stop was to Senator Larry Craig's office, where we visited with former ag teacher Nate Helm.

The business and industry tours that are conducted by the state officer team each year help to get the “FFA name” into our community, and show our supporters how much we appreciate what they do.

-Matt Woodington, State Vice President

Be a Person of Strength

James R. Moseley, United States Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, gave this speech at National Convention last fall. It was by far one of the best given at the convention.

I remember the good times that I had in FFA, what I learned, and what that opportunity gave to our children. You will too. Enjoy it. Take advantage of it, and learn all that you can.

I want to talk about just one thing for a couple of minutes. I want to talk about dreams, not just the kind that you have at night, but the kind that guide your life. And to do that, I need to ask a question. The question is: do you have a dream? Then you know what it means to have a dream. For me, it means being able to answer just a few more questions, questions like, where are you going when you move on with your life? What do you want to do? Does it make a difference? In other words, do you believe that you can have an effect on the outcome. How are you going to get there? And what obstacles are in your way? Are you strong enough to get where you think you want to go? Does the term ‘strength of character’ really make any difference? And if you get there, will you know it, and will you be happy?

They're simple questions. Unfortunately, they're ones that do not have simple answers. That's the challenge that you face in the next few years as you start to define your adult life, beginning to understand those things, the dreams of your life that make life for you what you want it to be.

The really good thing is that you do have options. In fact, there is no country in the world where you have more options than you do in the United States of America.

And, yes, your experience with FFA is a great way to help you figure it out. Dreams and commitment to them is what keeps you

going when the obstacles are simply overwhelming. And there will be obstacles, always has been, always will be.

My parents grew up on a farm during the Depression, and they decided to farm themselves, and that's kind of what happened back then. Children followed their parents in their occupation, and back then it was a hard life. You all know the mom and dad routine, walked uphill both ways in knee-deep snow to a one-room school.

As a result of that they wanted a different and better life for me. So I went to college, literally so I didn't have to go back to the farm. Then I graduated from Purdue University. I married a young lady that had the same values and a remarkable strength of character, and we chose farming anyway. We rented a farm. We fixed it up. We borrowed all the money we were worth to get started, and we worked hard side by side to follow our dream.

We soon learned what we didn't learn in college taking some 140 hours or courses for credit. So we went back to Purdue regularly for advice, and we continued to learn, because one of the important principles of life is that learning is a lifelong experience.

And over the years we built a livestock and grain operation, and we grew a family of 7 children, and we made a place in the world right down the road from Turnip Seed Corner, which is the designated center of the universe. That was our dream, and we wouldn't change it for anything.

But we never dreamed about how much we were going to farm or how many pigs we would raise or how much money we would make, or how many floods and droughts that we would have to endure, or how many disease outbreaks we would encounter, or how many children we would have, or for that matter, about moving to Washington, D.C. and serving the President of the United States, George H. Bush and George W. Bush both.

It's been an absolutely true honor for me to serve with this President who has been challenged in the most significant way in the history of our country, and I do hope you stand behind our President.

But we never dreamed about those things happening to us. They just happened along the way. And we did believe if we worked hard and kept a focus on what we wanted from life that it could happen. All of those things were simply the products of our effort and our dream, and we could have never planned it as well as this actually worked out, and for me, the seeds of all of it was planted and took root in Future Farmers of America.

I simply hope for every one of you here the same, and I know that if you will believe in it, you can make your dreams happen as well.

So hold true to your course. Keep this truth in your hip pocket, and pull it out in moments of doubt and uncertainty that most certainly will arise. What you choose to dream and really believe in sets the course for your life. Believe in it, and allow yourself to follow the opportunities that it presents, because in this country we call America, the best place in the world to offer you opportunity, you can make life what you want it to be.

The FFA emblem includes a rising sun, symbolizing the new day that is continually dawning over American agriculture for you that wear the blue. Every day is a new opportunity. Take it, run with it, make something happen.

I want to close with something that I have found to inspire me, to keep true to what is my purpose in life, and I hope that you find it useful as well. This is about the difference between being strong and having strength.

A strong person exercises every day to keep their body in shape, but a person of strength builds character and keeps their relationships healthy and strong.

A strong person tries not to be afraid of anything, but a person of strength calls upon courage in the midst of the fear.

A strong person won't let anyone get the best of them, but a person of strength gives the best of themselves to everyone.

A strong person makes mistakes and avoids the same in the future; a person of strength realizes that life's mistakes can also be unexpected blessings, and they take them and they capitalize on them.

A strong person wears a look of confidence on their face, but a person of strength wears grace.

A strong person has faith that they are strong enough for the journey; a person of strength has a faith that it is in the journey that they become strong.

If you can only be one thing, be a person of strength. That's my hope for every one of you, because America, this great country, has given you the opportunity, and all you need to do is give yourself back in return.

And just one final note, when you go home, just take a moment and remember someone made an investment in you, a mom or a dad--

A mom, a dad, a teacher, a friend. Just take a minute of your time and say thank you, because that's really all that they wanted anyway.

Thank you. You're a great group of young people. I am absolutely honored to be in your presence because I believe in you and I believe in the blue. Thank you.

FFA and Agriculture Trivia

1. Who is the State FFA Advisor?
 2. Who is the Director for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture?
 3. What are the 4 parts of a cow's stomach?
 4. What is the Sentinel's emblem?
 5. Who is the 2003-2004 National FFA Secretary?
 6. What are the official FFA colors?
 7. Who is the current State Treasurer?
 8. The Palouse area in Northern Idaho is known for what crop?
 9. What part of animal anatomy does a potato have?
 10. What is the 3rd line in the Motto?
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1. Dr. Richard Ledington, 2. Patrick A. Takasugi, 3. Rumen, Reticulum, Omasum, Abomasum, 4. The Hand Clasp, 5. Stacia Christine Berry--from Wyoming, 6. National Blue & Corn Gold, 7. Jason Fellows—from Preston, 8. Winter Wheat, 9. Eyes 10. Earning to Live



Featured Activity



FFA week is quickly approaching!

FFA week is the one time out of the year that chapters can really rely on to use for a great public relations tool. It is truly a time for your chapter to shine!

To have a great FFA Week, please consider the following:

- 1.) What kind of extraordinary activity(ies) could be planned?
- 2.) What are the available resources?
- 3.) Which groups might the chapter want to target for this public relations event?
- 4.) How should it be advertised?
- 5.) And who could help with the various tasks?

Some chapters have carnivals—and crown Ag kings and queens, do service projects, get their entire school involved, or even have a Food For America program. The possibilities are endless!

Remember that at www.ffa.org specific orders can be made for FFA Week supplies. Furthermore, there are even some fantastic resources in the form of planning guides at www.ffa.org/programs/ffaweek/index.html.

So good luck with the festivities for FFA Week during the span of time between February 21st and the 28th, and hope to see some of you at Cenarussa FFA Day on the Hill.

-Trent Van Leuven, State Reporter

Scenes of the Idaho FFA Association



The Idaho FFA Board of Directors posing with Congressman Otter at the Beef Rally near the Idaho State Capitol Building.



State Officers posing at the United Dairymen of Idaho office with Deanna Sessions, Executive Director.

